



**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Corps to provide information about record releases from Fort Randall Dam to downstream residents this evening**

**Omaha, Neb.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public meeting this evening at 7 p.m. in Niobrara, Nebraska to provide information about upcoming record releases out of Fort Randall Dam in Pickstown, S.D.

“Releases from Fort Randall Dam are set to reach to record levels between now and June 3,” said Tom Curran, Operations Project Manager at Fort Randall Project. “Public safety is our number one concern, and we want ensure that we are providing residents with the most current information and help protect vital public infrastructure.”

The meeting will take place at the WFLA Hall, 254-13 Park Ave, in Niobrara, Nebraska from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Following the meeting, Knox County Emergency Managers, Nebraska Department of Roads, National Parks Service, and Corps of Engineers officials will be available to answer questions from the public.

Releases from Fort Randall will gradually increase from the current 67,000 to 108,000 cfs by the beginning of July. River stages 3-6 feet above current levels are expected between Pickstown and Springfield, SD.

People along the river are encouraged to make evacuation plans to protect their possessions and property. Maps for potential flood areas are available at [www.nwo.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil) and from local emergency management offices. Flooded areas are expected to be inundated for several months.

“Moving water out of the reservoirs is essential to prevent the spillways from being overtopped which would make flooding much worse,” said General McMahon, Northwestern Division Commander. “Our release plan is based on the rain we’ve already received and the forecasted snow melt. More heavy rain storms could cause major revisions.” At these levels, additional releases do not significantly change the foot print of the flooding, only the depth.

In the last month, the upper basin has received a year’s worth of rain. “The amount of rain has nearly filled the reservoirs, doing away with most of the flexibility we had built into our operations for this year,” said Jody Farhat, Chief of the Water Management Division here. “With the arrival of the 140 percent-of-normal snowpack runoff, all the reservoirs will reach their maximum levels.”

During any flood response activities throughout the basin, the Corps will provide regular updates directly to the public via its Facebook ([www.facebook.com/OmahaUSACE](http://www.facebook.com/OmahaUSACE)) and Twitter accounts ([www.twitter.com/OmahaUSACE](http://www.twitter.com/OmahaUSACE)). Also, please access our flood response information from our Web site at: <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/>.

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<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/>

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View daily and forecasted reservoir and river information on the Water Management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc>.

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